

**LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

Members: Council Member Turner Perrow, Chair, Council Member Joan Foster
(It was noted this was an informational meeting only as Council Member Johnson is attending the National League of Cities Conference and Mayor Gillette had a conflicting meeting.)

Staff Present: Kimball Payne, Bonnie Svrcek, Gaynelle Hart, Don DeBerry, Kent White, Marjette Upshur, Lee Newland, Starlette Early

Others Present: none

Contract Awards:

There was one (1) new contract awarded. There was discussion regarding the Safe Routes to School contract re-bid process with removal of items to achieve a more biddable project. There was additional discussion on the differences between budgeted amount and estimated amount for this contract.

Update on Priority Projects:

Mr. Newland provided an update on projects since the last PDC meeting:

- Greenview Drive Phase 2- VDOT held kick-off meeting with contractors; notice to proceed given Feb 18; actual construction expected to start in March 2016 and completion by July 2017
- Odd Fellows Road Design/Build- VDOT held kick-off meeting with contractor; notice to proceed given Feb 18; expected to start in January 2016 and completion by August 2018
- Kemper Street Bridge/Interchange- Anticipate the notice to proceed will be given March 16th

There was discussion regarding the hold status on the Lakeside Drive Improvements @ L.C. project. All current funds have been expended. Additional movement on this project depends on the City receiving additional funding either from Council or match funds from Lynchburg College. There was also discussion about the possibility of completing this project in conjunction with Lakeside dam project and challenging issues related to pedestrian crosswalks desired by Lynchburg College to access the DPT building from parking areas located across the street.

There was general discussion on the challenges of retro-fitting pedestrian crosswalks on roads that were designed and built many years ago without sensitivity to pedestrian traffic. Crosswalks currently in place at several locations are not being used because they are not the closest route from point A to point B. Council Member Perrow noted he didn't feel it was the City's responsibility to connect specific properties to other specific properties; instead the City should consider connectivity of corridors.

Mr. Payne shared that bids were recently opened for the Operations and Maintenance Center for the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC). The engineering estimate was \$21 million and the project is coming in at \$17 million.

General Business:

1. ***Temporary speed table (TSP) update from Sandusky application*** — Traffic Sign Shop personnel installed a TSP at the request of the School Board Transportation Division at Sandusky Middle School

on School Board Property in September 2014. The table remained until January 2015. This installation was an effort to discourage speeding and cut through traffic in front of the school adjacent to the crosswalk from the staff parking area.

Mr. DeBerry reported on the success of the installation of the temporary speed table at Sandusky Middle School. He noted the principal of Sandusky Middle School felt it had a positive effect on the speed of the traffic while located in front of the school and was reluctant to have it removed. They are interested in a permanent speed table, however the temporary tables are removed during winter weather to avoid potential damage during snow plowing season. There was discussion regarding the durability of the temporary table and statistics/studies for the sustained effects on traffic speed following the removal.

Mr. DeBerry also noted there were several neighborhoods working their way through the Neighborhood Traffic Management program for consideration of future installations of the temporary speed table. There is an upcoming meeting regarding placement of a temporary table on Atlanta Avenue where residents of the area are allowed to express their interest and concerns. Other locations currently in the pipeline include Dreaming Creek area, Buckingham, and Windsor Hills. This is a self-initiated process that requires a petition (66 percent for a particular solution) from the neighborhood for consideration.

2. *Timberlake Road – Logan’s Lane concept discussion* - *A design concept has been approved by VDOT and requires the acquisition of the Hill City House Grille property. Original concepts requiring acquisition of property from three additional owners where not approved by VDOT.*

Mr. DeBerry indicated the Logan Lane’s project was at the point staff wanted to update PDC prior to taking the next big step-- attempting to purchase the Hill City House Grille property. He summarized the concept plan approved by VDOT, noting the plan would substantially improve the operation of Timberlake Corridor and reduce the delay in this area. The initial plan required right-of-way acquisition from four adjacent properties (Schewel Furniture, Beacon Credit Union, apartment complex, Hill City House Grille); however, the revised concept only requires acquisition from Hill City House Grille. It would require total acquisition of the property and the appraisal came in slightly less than the assessed value of the property. The property owner is receptive to a purchase offer from the City.

Mr. DeBerry noted the concept does impact the other three property owners by changing how their businesses are accessed from Logan’s Lane. The next steps are to meet with the adjacent property owners and allow them to express their opinions/concerns of the revised concept and make the offer for the acquisition.

There was discussion of the access changes to the adjacent properties, traffic volume, and required removal of the existing traffic signal at the ramp. The project is designed to improve traffic flow and functionality at Timberlake intersection. Mr. Payne expressed he wanted PDC to see this project because it is indicative of the complexity posed by retro-fit projects and the resulting escalating costs as a result of meeting required standards. There was discussion of the “dead land” resulting from the removal of a portion of the 501 off-ramp, and loss of a valuable frontage lot on Timberlake Road. Mr. DeBerry indicated the land would likely be used as a stormwater treatment area.

Council Member Perrow commented he would like to see some sort of cut half-way down Logan’s Lane and with abolishment of off-ramp to possibly be re-aligned and expanded to carve out a viable parcel between entrance ramp and exit ramp. He was concerned about the loss of a lot in that area although he recognized it would create stormwater challenges. Mr. DeBerry noted the design needed to be completed in order to determine feasibility of carving out a usable parcel.

There was additional discussion regarding the topography of the land and how it might impact the engineering design for the concept.

PDC had no objections to proceeding with the project.

Roll Call:

There were no items for roll call. Council Member Foster expressed her appreciation to Ms. Hart for the good work by Public Works in the snow removal efforts over the last several months.

Next meeting: April 14, 2015